



Steven C. Armbrust  
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May 4, 2007

**Via Overnight DHL Express Mail (Return Receipt Requested)**

Honorable Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 East St. SW  
Washington, D. C. 20423

RE. Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No 678X), CSX Transportation, Inc. -  
*Abandonment Exemption—in Clay County, IL*

**FEE RECEIVED**  
MAY 8 - 2007  
SURFACE  
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed are the original and 10 copies of a Verified Notice of Exemption for abandonment in the above-entitled proceeding and a check for the filing fee of \$3,200.

Please time and date stamp the additional copy of this letter and return it to me in the self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you for your assistance.

If you have any questions please call or email me.

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
MAY - 8 2007  
Part of  
Public Record

Sincerely yours,

Steven C. Armbrust

**FILED**  
MAY 8  
SURFACE  
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Enclosures

BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Docket No AB-55 (Sub-No. 678X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.-ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION-  
IN CLAY COUNTY, IL

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

MAY - 8 2007

Part of  
Public Record

**FILED**

MAY 8 2007

SURFACE  
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**FEE RECEIVED**

MAY 8 - 2007

SURFACE  
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Steven C. Armbrust, Esq.  
CSX Transportation, Inc.  
500 Water Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202  
(904) 359-1229

Counsel for: CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.

Dated: May 4, 2007

BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 678X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.-ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION-  
IN CLAY COUNTY, IL

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") files this Verified Notice of Exemption pursuant to the class exemption at 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 for CSXT to abandon a 0.86-mile rail line on its Northern Region, Louisville Division, Illinois Subdivision, from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75 0, a distance of 0.86 miles known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois (the "Line"). No local or overhead rail traffic has moved over the Line during the past two years

1. Proposed consummation date The proposed consummation date is June 25, 2007.
2. Certification required by 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(b). See Exhibit A.
3. Information required by 49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(1) through (4), (7), and (8), and (e)(4).
  - (a) *General.*
    - (1) Exact name of applicant. CSX Transportation, Inc.



(2) Whether applicant is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C.

Subtitle IV, Chapter 105. CSXT is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV, Chapter 105.

(3) Relief sought. CSXT seeks to use the class exemption at 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 to abandon a 0.86-mile rail line on its Northern Region, Louisville Division, Illinois Subdivision, from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75 0, a distance of 0.86 miles known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois. No stations will be impacted by the proposed abandonment.

(4) Map. See Exhibit B.

(7) Name, title, and address of representative of applicant to whom

correspondence should be sent. Steven C. Armbrust, CSX Transportation, Inc., 500 Water St., J-150, Jacksonville, Florida, 32202 (fax: 904-245-3357).

(8) List of all United States Postal Service ZIP Codes that the line proposed for abandonment traverses. The Line traverses ZIP Code 62839.

(e) Rural and community impact. Statement of whether the properties proposed to be abandoned are appropriate for use for other public purposes, including roads and highways, other

forms of mass transportation, conservation, energy production or transmission, or recreation. If the applicant is aware of any restriction on the title to the property, including any reversionary interest, which would affect the transfer of title or the use of property for other than rail purposes, this shall be disclosed.

CSXT believes that the properties proposed for abandonment may be suitable for other purposes, but may be subject to reversionary interests that may affect transfer of title for other than rail purposes.

4. The level of labor protection The interests of railroad employees who may be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment will be adequately protected by the labor protective conditions in Oregon Short Line R. Co. -- Abandonment -- Goshen, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979).

5 Certification. Certificates of compliance with the notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1152.50(d)(1), 1105.11 and 1105.12 may be found in Exhibit C (Certificate of Service; Certificate of Publication), Exhibit D (Certificate of Distribution of Environmental Report) and Exhibit E (Certificate of Distribution of Historical Report).

6. Environmental Report, etc See Exhibit D. Based on information in the possession of CSXT, the Line does not contain federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

7 Historic Report. See Exhibit E.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Armbrust", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven C. Armbrust, Esq.  
CSX Transportation, Inc.  
500 Water Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202  
(904) 359-1229

Counsel for: CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC

Dated: May 4, 2007

**EXHIBIT A**

**VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION THAT RAIL LINE MEETS  
CRITERIA OF 49 C.F.R. SECTION 1152.50(b)**

**[See attached]**

STATE OF FLORIDA                     )  
  )       SS.  
COUNTY OF DUVAL                   )

I hereby certify that no local traffic has moved over CSXT's Northern Region, Louisville Division, Illinois Subdivision, from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75 0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois, for at least two years prior to the date hereof, and that any overhead traffic on the line can be rerouted over other lines. Further, no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or a State or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of a complainant within the two-year period. The foregoing certification is made on behalf of CSXT by the undersigned after due and careful investigation of the matters herein certified and based on the best of the knowledge, information, and belief of the undersigned.

Ellen M Preslar  
Ellen M. Preslar

My Commission Expires: June 20, 2010

Suzanne Marie Goss  
Notary Public

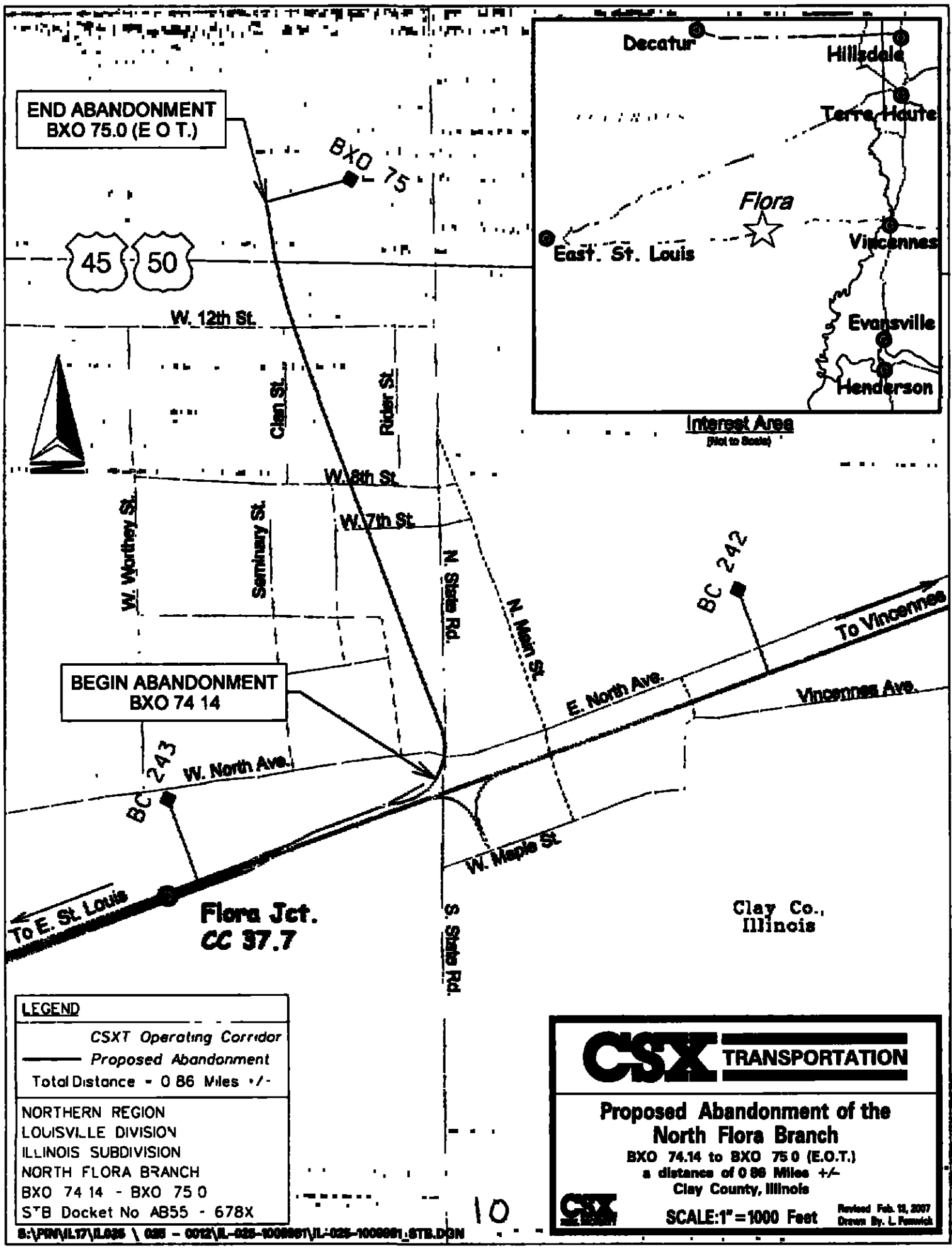




**EXHIBIT B**

**MAP**

**[See attached]**



END ABANDONMENT  
BXO 75.0 (E O T.)

45 50

W. 12th St.

BXO 75

Clan St.

Rider St.

W. 8th St.

W. 7th St.

W. Worthey St.

Seminary St.

N. State Rd.

N. Main St.

E. North Ave.

Vincennes Ave.

BEGIN ABANDONMENT  
BXO 74.14

BC 243

W. North Ave.

W. Maple St.

BC 242

To Vincennes

To E. St. Louis

Flora Jct.  
CC 37.7

Clay Co.,  
Illinois

LEGEND

CSXT Operating Corridor

Proposed Abandonment

Total Distance - 0.86 Miles +/-

NORTHERN REGION

LOUISVILLE DIVISION

ILLINOIS SUBDIVISION

NORTH FLORA BRANCH

BXO 74.14 - BXO 75.0

STB Docket No. AB55 - 678X

**CSX** TRANSPORTATION

**Proposed Abandonment of the  
North Flora Branch**

BXO 74.14 to BXO 75.0 (E.O.T.)

a distance of 0.86 Miles +/-

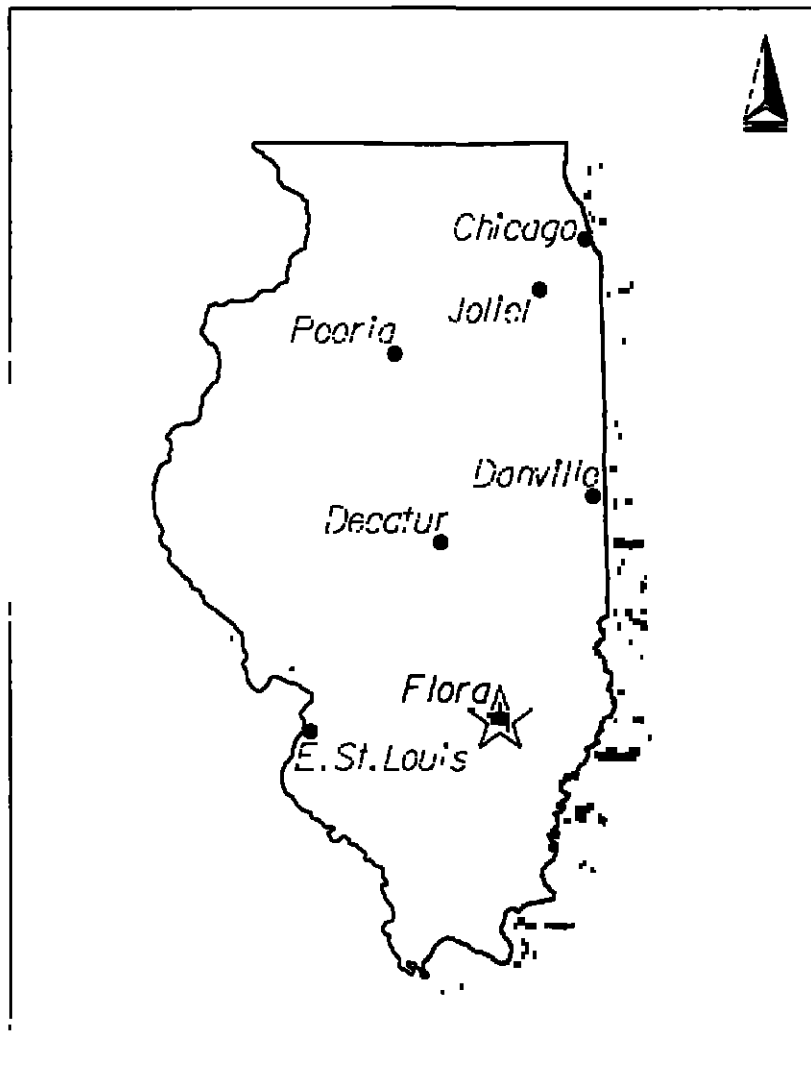
Clay County, Illinois



SCALE: 1" = 1000 Feet

Revised Feb. 12, 2007  
Drawn By: L. Fennick

10



## AREA MAP

- Proposed Abandonment -  
North Flora Branch  
BXO 74.14 - BXO 75.0  
0.86 Miles +/-  
Clay County, Illinois

**EXHIBIT C**

**CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE AND PUBLICATION**

**[See attached]**

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 (d) (1), the undersigned hereby certifies that notice of the proposed abandonment in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 678X) was mailed via first class mail on April 20, 2007, to the following parties:

### **State Public Service Commission**

Illinois Commerce Commission  
Attn. Charles E. Box, Chairman  
527 East Capitol Ave  
Springfield, IL 62701

### **Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Transportation Engineering Agency**

SDDCTEA  
ATTN: Railroads for National Defense  
720 Thimble Shoals Blvd.  
Suite 130  
Newport News, Virginia 23606-2574

### **National Park Service**

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Attention: Mr. Charlie Stockman  
Acting Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Manager  
1201 I Street, NW, 9th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

### **National Park Service**

U. S. Department of Interior  
National Park Service  
Land Resources Division  
1201 Eye St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Chief of the Forest Service  
4th Floor N.W., Auditors' Building  
14th Street and Independence Avenue, S W.  
Washington, D.C 20250

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven C. Armbrust", is written over a horizontal line.

Steven C. Armbrust  
May 2, 2007

### **CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION**

The undersigned hereby certifies that notice of the proposed abandonment in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No 678X) was advertised on May 1, 2007 in the Daily Clay County Advocate-Press, a newspaper of general circulation in Clay County, Illinois, as required by 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven C. Armbrust", is written over a horizontal line.

Steven C. Armbrust

May 2, 2007

**EXHIBIT D**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**  
**[See attached]**



**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT  
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7, the undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the Environmental Report in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 678X) was mailed via first class mail on April 4, 2007 to the following parties:

Mr. Gary Whitehead, Chairman  
South Central Illinois Regional  
Planning Committee  
742 Birchwood  
Flora, IL 62839

Ms. Sue Petit, Chairman  
Clay County Board of Commissioners  
503 Hoptree Drive  
Flora, IL 62839

Ms. Yvonne Guinn  
City of Flora  
PO Box 249  
Flora, IL 62839

Mr. Dan Sulsberger  
City of Flora  
PO Box 249  
Flora, IL 62839

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
Attn: Mr. Ken Westlake (B19J)  
77 West Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60604

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Attn: Water Division  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

**Ms. Joyce Collins, Supervisor  
U S. Fish & Wildlife Commission  
Marion Field Office  
8588 Route 148  
Marion, IL 62959-4565**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Commission  
Regional Office  
Federal Building  
One Federal Drive  
Fort Snelling, MN 55111**

**U.S Army Corps of Engineers  
Louisville District  
PO Box 59  
600 Dr. Martin Luther King Pl.  
Louisville, KY 40201-0059**

**USDA – NRCS  
Louisville Service Center  
155 Highway 45 N  
Louisville, IL 62858-9105**

**Illinois State Clearinghouse  
Department of Commerce & Community Affairs  
100 West Randolph Street  
Room 3-400  
Chicago, IL 60601**

**Ms. Sandra Washington, Chief  
National Park Service  
Midwest Region  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102**

**Mr Gregory Baize  
Department of Transportation  
Transportation Administration Building  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62764**

Mr Dan Injerd  
Division of Water Resources  
Department of Transportation  
310 South Michigan #1606  
Chicago, IL 60604

NOAA – VIA EMAIL NOAA – VIA EMAIL  
National Geodetic Service (NOAA) at 'NGS.InfoCenter@noaa.gov' (via email)



Steven C Armbrust  
May 2, 2007

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## ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

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**CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.  
DOCKET AB-55 (SUB-NO. 678X)  
CITY of FLORA, CLAY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

The following information is provided in accordance with 49 C F R Section 1105.7

**(1) PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

**Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable, detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.**

CSXT proposes to abandon approximately 0.86 mile of its rail line between from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to the end of track at Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, known as the Flora North Branch, Clay County, Illinois.

The above referenced 0.86-mile line has not generated any originating or terminating traffic in over two years.

Abandonment of this line will result in the removal of the rail, cross-ties, and possibly the upper layer of ballast. CSXT does not intend to disturb any sub-grade or sub-grade structures. Finally, the operations and maintenance of this line will cease.

The only alternative would be not to abandon and to pass the opportunity costs of retaining the line to all other CSXT customers. This would not be a prudent utilization of carrier resources.

Two maps, which delineate the proposed project, are attached (See Attachments 1 and 2).

Also attached is a distribution list of all agencies which have received preliminary letters and a copy of this report in order to solicit input (See Attachment 3).

Applicant solicited responses from all agencies on March 5, 2007. Applicant's second solicitation for response, environmental report, environmental response form and self addressed stamped envelope were sent on April 4, 2007.

If applicant does not receive any response based on the solicitations listed above, it is applicant's position that the proposed action will have no adverse effect, impact or inconsistencies.

Any comments received on or after May 4, 2007 will be immediately forwarded to the STB for consideration in this matter under separate cover.

**(2) TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

**Describe the effects of the proposed action on regional or local transportation systems and patterns. Estimate the amount of traffic (passenger or freight) that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed action.**

There is no passenger or freight traffic on the line, therefore there will be no effect on existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns.

**(3) LAND USE**

- (i) Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies.**

Applicant received the CSXT Environmental Report Response Form dated April 13, 2007 from Mr. Dan Sulsberger – Director of the City of Flora Economic Development stating "No Environmental Impact" (See Attachment 7).

Applicant received a response from Mr. Milton Sees – Acting Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation stating "We have completed our review of your plan and take no exceptions to CSX abandoning the track." (See Attachment 7A).

Applicant has not received a response to its inquiries dated March 5, 2007 to Mr. Gary Whitehead of the South Central Illinois Regional

Planning Committee, Ms. Sue Petit of the Clay County Board of Commissioners or Ms Yvonne Gunn of the City of Flora seeking information regarding this statement (See Attachments 4, 5 and 6)

Based on the fact that the line segment has not generated any traffic in over two years, Applicant does not feel that the proposed action is inconsistent with local and/or regional plans

- (ii) **Based on consultation with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land.**

Applicant received a response dated March 20, 2007 from Laurie King of the U S Department of Agriculture – NRCS, Louisville Service Center in Louisville, Indiana stating *"There is a small agricultural field that lies adjacent to the abandoned track just south of US 45/50 that is classified as prime farmland. All other land adjacent to the track has previously been developed and no longer fits the classification of Prime Farmland"* (See Attachment 8)

Applicant also received the CSXT Environmental Report Response Form dated April 8, 2007 from Ms. Laurie King – District Conservationist stating "No Environmental Impact" (See Attachment 8A)

Applicant feels the simple removal of track material should not have an adverse impact and the small parcel of farmland

- (iii) **If the action affects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone, include the coastal zone information required by 1105.9.**

Applicant has not received a response to its inquiry dated March 5, 2007 to Mr Dan Injerd of the Division of Water Resources - Department of Transportation in Chicago, Illinois seeking information regarding this statement (See Attachment 9)

Applicant does not feel that the simple removal of track material should have any adverse impact on land or water uses

- (iv) **If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right of way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. 10906 and explain why.**

The properties, proposed to be abandoned, may be suitable for other public purposes, but may be subject to reversionary interests that may affect the transfer of title for other than rail purposes

**(4) ENERGY**

- (i) **Describe the effect of the proposed action on transportation of energy resources.**

The proposed action will have no effect on the transportation of energy resources

- (ii) **Describe the effect of the proposed action on recyclable commodities.**

The proposed action will have no effect on the movement and/or recovery of recyclable commodities

- (iii) **State whether the proposed action will result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency and explain why.**

The proposed action will not result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency

- (iv) **If the proposed action will cause diversions from rail to motor carriage of more than: (A) 1,000 rail carloads a year; or (B) an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the affected line, quantify the resulting net change in energy consumption and show the data and methodology used to arrive at the figure given.**

There will be no diversion of rail traffic to motor carriage in excess of the above thresholds.

**(5) AIR**

- (i) **If the proposed action will result in either: (A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 100% (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least eight trains a day on any**

segment of rail line affected by the proposal, or (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100% (measured by carload activity), or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment, quantify the anticipated effect on air emissions.

The above thresholds will not be exceeded.

- (ii) If the proposed action affects a class I or non-attainment area under the Clean Air Act; and will it result in either: (A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 50% (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least three trains a day on any segment of rail line, or (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 20% (measured by carload activity), or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on a given road segment, then state whether any expected increased emissions are within the parameters established by the State Implementation Plan.

The above thresholds will not be exceeded

- (iii) If transportation of ozone depleting materials (such as nitrogen oxide and freon) is contemplated, identify: the materials and quantity, the frequency of service; safety practices (including any speed restriction); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and spills; contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of ozone depleting materials in the event of a collision or derailment.

Not applicable

**(6) NOISE**

If any of the thresholds identified in item (5)(i) of this section are surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause: (i) an incremental increase in noise levels of three decibels Ldn or more, or (ii) an increase to a noise level of 65 decibels Ldn or greater. If so, identify sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities, and nursing homes) in the project area, and quantify the noise increase for these receptors if the thresholds are surpassed.

The above thresholds will not be exceeded



**(7) SAFETY**

- (i) Describe any effects of the proposed action on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad grade crossings).**

Applicant believes there will be a positive effect on public safety by the removal of four (4) at grade, public crossings

- (ii) If hazardous materials are expected to be transported, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; whether chemicals are being transported that, if mixed, could react to form more hazardous compounds; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and hazardous spills; the contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of hazardous materials.**

Not applicable

- (iii) If there are any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous material spills on the right of way, identify the location of those sites and the types of hazardous materials involved.**

Applicant's records do not indicate that there has been any hazardous material spills or hazardous waste sites located on the line segment.

**(8) BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

- (i) Based on consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects.**

Applicant has not received a response to its inquires dated March 5, 2007 to Ms Joyce Collins or the U S Fish & Wildlife Commission – Marion Field Office or the U S Fish & Wildlife Commission – Regional Office in Fort Snelling, Minnesota seeking information regarding this statement (See Attachments 10 and 11)

Applicant does not feel that the simple removal of track material should have any adverse impact on any endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat

- (ii) **State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.**

Based upon Applicant's review of the area, the line segment does not appear to be near any parks, wildlife sanctuaries, refuges, or forests.

Applicant received a response dated April 19, 2007 from the National Park Service in Omaha, Nebraska stating "No comment on your proposed action" (See Attachment 11A)

(9) **WATER**

- (i) **Based on consultation with State water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.**

Applicant has not received a response to its inquiry dated March 5, 2007, to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency – Water Division in Springfield, Illinois requesting information regarding this statement. (See Attachment 12)

Applicant does not contemplate any action known to be inconsistent with federal, state and/or local water quality standards. Any necessary permits or applications will be obtained as well as compliance with conditions or procedures required by regulatory agencies

- (ii) **Based on consultation with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects.**

Applicant has not response to its inquiry dated March 5, 2007 to the U S Army Corps of Engineers – Louisville District in Louisville, Kentucky requesting information regarding this

statement (See Attachment 13)

Applicant is not aware of any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains within the proposed project

Upon receiving abandonment authority, removal of material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. Applicant does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbed or perform any activities that would cause sedimentation or erosion of the soil, and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. Also, during track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any waterways. Based upon this course of action, Applicant does not believe a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required.

- (iii) **State whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) are required for the proposed action. (Applicants should contact the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency or the state environmental protection or equivalent agency if they are unsure whether such permits are required).**

Applicant has not received a response to its inquiry dated March 5, 2007, to Mr. Ken Westlake of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 in Chicago, Illinois, requesting information regarding this statement (See Attachment 14).

Based upon the course of action described in Section 9 (ii), Applicant does not believe a permit under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act will be required.

## **10. MITIGATION**

**Describe any actions that are proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, indicating why the proposed mitigation is**

**appropriate.**

**Applicant does not anticipate any adverse environmental impacts in the project area as a result of this abandonment, however, if mitigation is necessary, Applicant will comply with reasonable State and Federal regulations and obtain any necessary permits required**



8x0-76

**East. St. Louis**

**Flora**

## Vincennes

## Evansville

**Handy**

### Interest Areas

**BEGIN ABANDONMENT  
BXO 74.14**

BC 1242

**To Vincennes**

**VINCENNES AVE.**

**Flora Jct**  
**CC 37.74**

Clay, Co.  
Illinois

— CSXT Operating Corridor  
 — Proposed Abandonment  
 Total Distance = 0.86 Miles +/-

NORTHERN REGION  
LOUISVILLE DIVISION  
ILLINOIS SUBDIVISION  
NORTH FLORA BRANCH  
BXO 74 14 - BXO 75 0  
STB Docket No AB55 - 678X

S: VFRALZ / LAGS / 025' - 0021 L - 025 - 00001 L - 025 - 00001 STRICH



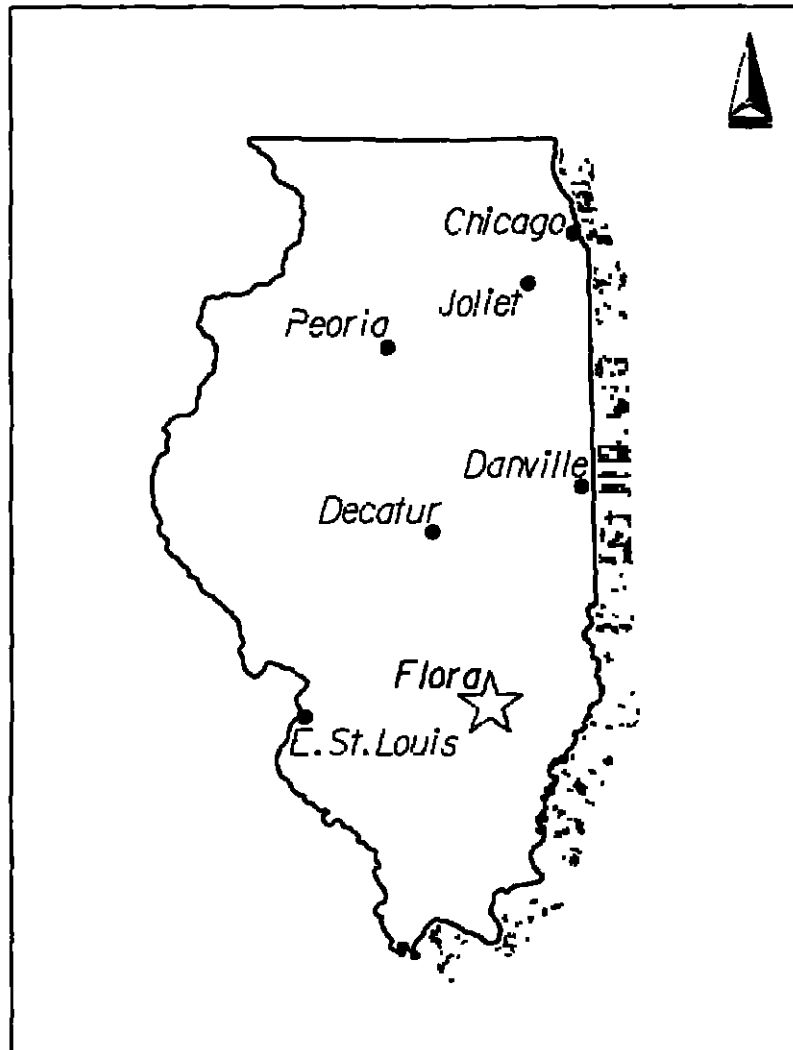
## Proposed Abandonment of the North Flora Branch

EXO 74.14 to EXO 75.0 (E.O.T.)  
a distance of 0.26 Miles +/-  
Clay County, Illinois



**SCALE: 1"=1000 Feet**

Received: Feb. 19, 2007  
 Revised: Mar. 1, 2007



### AREA MAP

- Proposed Abandonment -  
North Flora Branch  
BXO 74.14 - BXO 75.0  
0.86 Miles +/-  
Clay County, Illinois

NORTHERN REGION - LOUISVILLE DIVISION - ILLINOIS SUBDIVISION - NORTH FLORA BRANCH

**CSXT Abandonment External Distribution List  
Flora North Branch, IL  
AB 55 Sub No. 678X**

**Mr. Gary Whitehead, Chairman  
South Central Illinois Regional  
Planning Committee  
742 Birchwood  
Flora, IL 62839**

**Ms. Sue Petit, Chairman  
Clay County Board of Commissioners  
503 Hoptree Drive  
Flora, IL 62839**

**Ms. Yvonne Guinn  
City of Flora  
PO Box 249  
Flora, IL 62839**

**Mr. Dan Sulsberger  
City of Flora  
PO Box 249  
Flora, IL 62839**

**U S Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
Attn: Mr. Ken Westlake (B19J)  
77 West Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60604**

**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Attn: Water Division  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276**

**Ms. Joyce Collins, Supervisor  
U S. Fish & Wildlife Commission  
Marion Field Office  
8588 Route 148  
Marion, IL 62959-4565**

**U S Fish & Wildlife Commission  
Regional Office  
Federal Building  
One Federal Drive  
Fort Snelling, MN 55111**

**U S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Louisville District  
PO Box 59  
600 Dr. Martin Luther King Pl.  
Louisville, KY 40201-0059**

**USDA - NRCS  
Louisville Service Center  
155 Highway 45 N  
Louisville, IL 62858-9105**

**Illinois State Clearinghouse  
Department of Commerce & Community  
Affairs  
100 West Randolph Street  
Room 3-400  
Chicago, IL 60601**

**Ms. Sandra Washington, Chief  
National Park Service  
Midwest Region  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102**

**Mr. Gregory Baize  
Department of Transportation  
Transportation Administration Building  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62764**

**Mr. Dan Injerd  
Division of Water Resources  
Department of Transportation  
310 South Michigan #1606  
Chicago, IL 60604**

**NOAA - VIA EMAIL**



Dave Geraci  
Manager - Network Rationalization

**Attachment 4**

808 Water Street - J280  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 388-1088  
FAX: (904) 388-1111  
E-Mail: Dave\_Geraci@CSX.com

March 5, 2007

Mr. Gary Whitehead, Chairman  
South Central Illinois Regional  
Planning Committee  
742 Birchwood  
Flora, IL 62839

Dear Mr. Whitehead:

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. is considering abandonment of a portion of its rail line from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois, as depicted on the attached map.

This action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7(3)(i) require that CSXT develop a response to the following statement:

"Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies."

CSXT would appreciate your advice as to the existence of a long-range comprehensive planning map for Clay County and the line's relationship to such planning.

As further information, CSXT will provide a preliminary environmental report in the coming weeks which will outline the scope of the proposed salvage activity and include any comments received from your office.

Further enclosed, please find a distribution list of all parties that have been copied of the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Attachment





Dave Garaci  
Manager - Network Rationalization

**Attachment 5**

500 Water Street - J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 369-1000  
FAX: (904) 369-1111  
E-Mail: Dave\_Garaci@CSX.com

March 5, 2007

Ms. Sue Petit, Chairman  
Clay County Board of Commissioners  
503 Hoptree Drive  
Flora, IL 62839

Dear Ms. Petit:

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. is considering abandonment of a portion of its rail line from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois, as depicted on the attached map.

This action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7(3)(i) require that CSXT develop a response to the following statement:

"Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies."

CSXT would appreciate your advice as to the existence of a long-range comprehensive planning map for Clay County and the line's relationship to such planning.

As further information, CSXT will provide a preliminary environmental report in the coming weeks which will outline the scope of the proposed salvage activity and include any comments received from your office.

Further enclosed, please find a distribution list of all parties that have been copied of the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Attachment

March 5, 2007

Ms. Yvonne Guinn  
City of Flora  
PO Box 249  
Flora, IL 62839

Dear Ms. Guinn:

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. is considering abandonment of a portion of its rail line from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois, as depicted on the attached map.

This action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7(3)(i) require that CSXT develop a response to the following statement:

"Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies."

CSXT would appreciate your advice as to the existence of a long-range comprehensive planning map for the City of Flora and the line's relationship to such planning.

As further information, CSXT will provide a preliminary environmental report in the coming weeks which will outline the scope of the proposed salvage activity and include any comments received from your office.

Further enclosed, please find a distribution list of all parties that have been copied of the proposed action.

Sincerely,



Attachment

## CSXT Environmental Report Response Form

STB Docket Number AB 55 Sub No. 678X

Notice of Exemption from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois

Agency response (check one):

☒ No Environmental Impact☐ Environmental Impact as follows (or attached):

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Date:

4-13-07

Signature:

Daniel M. Sulsberger

Name:

DANIEL M. Sulsberger

Title:

Dtr, Economic Development



# Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764  
Telephone 217/782-5597

April 12, 2007

Mr. Dave Geraci  
CSX Transportation  
500 Water St - J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mr. Geraci:

Thank you for your letter advising us of CSX's potential plan to abandon a portion of their track in Flora, Illinois.

We have completed our review of your plan and take no exceptions to CSX abandoning the track from Railroad Milepost BXO 74 14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75 0.

We look forward to receiving a copy of the preliminary environmental report which will contain our comments and scope of salvage activity.

Thank you for informing us of this matter, and we thank you for your interest in Illinois' public transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Milton R. Sees'.

Milton R. Sees  
Acting Secretary



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
155 N Rte 45  
Louisville, IL 62858  
(618) 665-3327 ext. 3  
FAX (618) 665-3385

**Attachment 8**

[www.il.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov)

March 20, 2007

Dave Geraci  
Manager – Network Rationalization  
CSX Transportation  
200 Water St. – J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mr. Geraci:

This is in regard to the abandonment of the CSX Flora North Branch in Clay County, Illinois. There is a small agricultural field that lies adjacent to the abandoned track just south of US 45/50 that is classified as prime farmland. All other land adjacent to the track has previously been developed and no longer fits the classification of Prime Farmland.

I have enclosed the soil maps that show the abandoned track (highlighted orange) and the areas considered to be prime farmland (highlighted yellow). I have also included the list of soil types listed as prime farmland in the Soil Survey of Clay County, Illinois (1998)

Please call my office at (618)665-3327 ext 3 if you have questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie L. King".

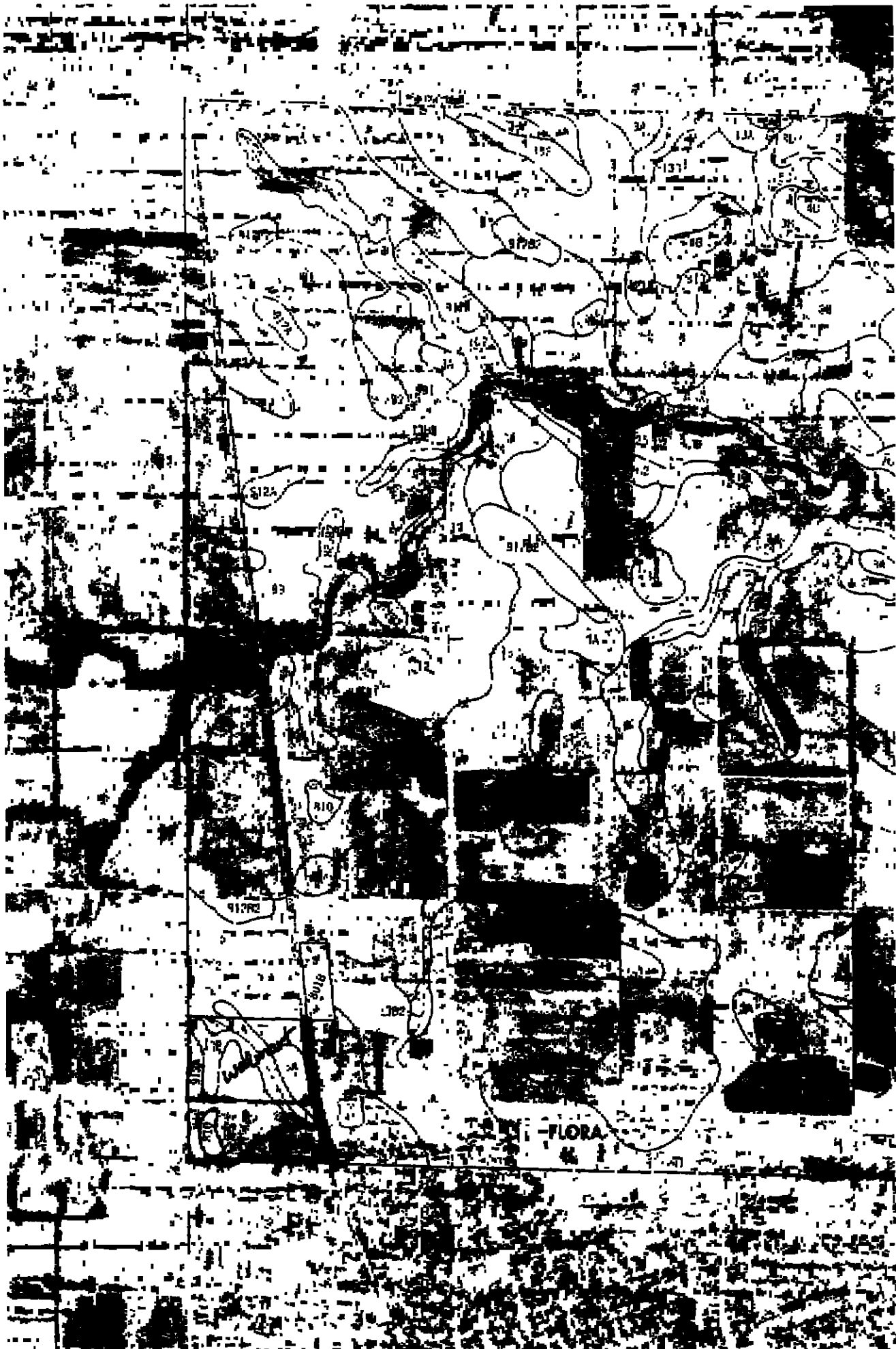
Laurie L. King  
District Conservationist



This soil survey map was compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and cooperating agencies. Base maps are prepared from 1983 aerial photography. Coordinate grid ticks and land division corners shown are approximately positioned.

Abandoned tract

Prime farmland





# CSXT Environmental Report Response Form

STB Docket Number AB 55 Sub No. 678X

Notice of Exemption from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois

Agency response (check one):

☒ No Environmental Impact

☐ Environmental Impact as follows (or attached):

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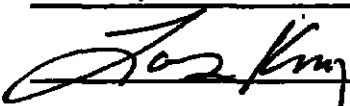
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Date: 4/8/07

Signature: 

Name: Laurie L. King

Title: District Conservationist





Dave Geraci  
Manager - Network Rationalization

500 Water Street - J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 369-1898  
FAX: (904) 369-1111  
E-Mail: Dave\_Geraci@CSX.com

**Attachment 9**

March 5, 2007

Mr. Dan Injerd  
Division of Water Resources  
Department of Transportation  
310 South Michigan #1606  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Injerd:

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. is considering abandonment of a portion of its rail line from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois, as depicted on the attached map.

This action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations require expanded environmental information in connection with rail lines, which are subject to abandonment. One of these is to determine if a designated coastal zone management area is involved, and, if so, if the proposed action is consistent with the affected State's Coastal Zone Management Program.

CSXT would appreciate your advising if the removal of the rail would have an effect on your program. It is CSXT's intention to simply remove the metal material from the top layer of gravel ballast, and to preserve the existing routes of water flow and drainage. CSXT does not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material.

As further information, CSXT will provide a preliminary environmental report in the coming weeks which will outline the scope of the proposed salvage activity and include any comments received from your office.

Further enclosed, please find a distribution list of all parties that have been copied of the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Attachment



Dave Geraci  
Manager - Network Rationalization

**Attachment 10**

500 Water Street - J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 359-1000  
FAX: (904) 359-1111  
E-Mail: Dave\_Geraci@CSX.com

March 5, 2007

Ms. Joyce Collins, Supervisor  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Commission  
Marion Field Office  
8588 Route 148  
Marion, IL 62959-4565

Dear Ms. Collins:

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. is considering abandonment of a portion of its rail line from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois, as depicted on the attached map.

The action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 (8) (i) and (ii) require that CSXT develop responses to the following statements:

- (i) Based on consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects.
- (ii) State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

The removal of CSXT's rail material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. CSXT does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbeds and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way, nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. During track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other materials from entering any watercourses.

Based upon the above described actions, CSXT would appreciate your concurrence in its position that there would be no adverse impact to any federally-listed endangered or threatened species, critical habitats, wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks, or forests.

As further information, CSXT will provide a preliminary environmental report in the coming weeks which will outline the scope of the proposed salvage activity (as stated above) and include any comments received from your office.

Further enclosed, please find a distribution list of all parties that have been copied of the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Attachment



Dave Geraci  
Manager - Network Rationalization

600 Water Street - J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 368-1000  
FAX: (904) 368-1111  
E-Mail: Dave\_Geraci@CSX.com

## Attachment 11

March 5, 2007

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Commission  
Regional Office  
Federal Building  
One Federal Drive  
Fort Snelling, MN 55111

Gentlemen:

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. is considering abandonment of a portion of its rail line from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois, as depicted on the attached map.

The action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 (8) (i) and (ii) require that CSXT develop responses to the following statements:

- (i) Based on consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects.
- (ii) State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

The removal of CSXT's rail material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. CSXT does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbeds and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way, nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. During track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other materials from entering any watercourses.

Based upon the above described actions, CSXT would appreciate your concurrence in its position that there would be no adverse impact to any federally-listed endangered or threatened species, critical habitats, wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks, or forests.

As further information, CSXT will provide a preliminary environmental report in the coming weeks which will outline the scope of the proposed salvage activity (as stated above) and include any comments received from your office.

Further enclosed, please find a distribution list of all parties that have been copied of the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Attachment

**Attachment 11A**

Re CSX Abandonment, Docket No AB-55(Sub No 678X), City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois

We have received your letter of April 4, 2007 concerning the above referenced project

- ☒ We have no comment on your proposed action
- ☒ Please address any further correspondence about this project or any project to the following address

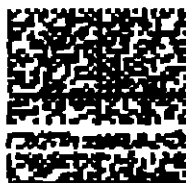
Regional Environmental Coordinator  
National Park Service  
Midwest Regional Office  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Due to limited staff and the number of requests we receive for early coordination, we ask that companies/agencies assume we will have no comments on projects if they have not heard from us within 30 days of our receipt of the request

Thank you,

Regional Environmental Coordinator

Environmental Coordinator  
National Park Service  
Midwest Regional Office  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102



049J82036859

049J82036859

**\$00.240**

04/19/2007

United States 68102

US POSTAGE

Mr. Dave Geraci  
CSX Transportation  
500 Water Street - J200  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202





Dave Geraci  
Manager - Network Rationalization

**Attachment 12**

800 Water Street - J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 388-1000  
FAX: (904) 388-1111  
E-Mail: Dave\_Geraci@CSX.com

March 5, 2007

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Attn: Water Division  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Gentlemen:

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. is considering abandonment of a portion of its rail line from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois, as depicted on the attached map.

This action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 (9) (i) and (iii) require that CSXT develop a response to the following statements:

(i) "Based on consultation with State Water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies."

(iii) State whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act 33 U.S.C. 1342 are required for the proposed action."

There are no refueling or maintenance areas within the project area. The removal of CSXT's rail material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. CSXT does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbeds and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way, nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. During track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any watercourses.

Based upon the above described actions, CSXT would appreciate receiving your concurrence with its position that the proposed project is consistent with applicable Federal, State and local water quality standards, and that no permits under Section 402 are required at this time.

As further information, CSXT will provide a preliminary environmental report in the coming weeks which will outline the scope of the proposed salvage activity (as stated above) and include any comments received from your office.

Further enclosed, please find a distribution list of all parties that have been copied of the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Attachment



**TRANSPORTATION**  
Dave Geraci  
Manager - Network Rationalization

**Attachment 13**

500 Water Street - J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 389-1000  
FAX: (904) 389-1111  
E-Mail: Dave\_Geraci@CSX.com

March 5, 2007

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Louisville District  
PO Box 59  
600 Dr. Martin Luther King Pl.  
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Gentlemen:

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. is considering abandonment of a portion of its rail line from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois, as depicted on the attached map.

This action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7(9)(ii) require that CSXT develop a response to the following statement:

"Based on consultation with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether any designated wetlands or 100 year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects."

It is CSXT's opinion that there will be no impact on designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains because our intent at this time is to only remove CSXT's metal track material, cross-ties and perhaps the upper layer of ballast, and to preserve the existing routes of water flow and drainage. CSXT does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbeds or perform any activities that would cause sedimentation or erosion of the soil, and CSXT does not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The track removal will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. The cross-ties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way, nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways.

Based upon the above described actions, CSXT would appreciate your concurrence in its position that there would be no adverse impact on wetlands or 100-year flood plains, and that no permits under Section 404 will be required.

As further information, CSXT will provide a preliminary environmental report in the coming weeks which will outline the scope of the proposed salvage activity (as stated above) and include any comments received from your office.

Further enclosed, please find a distribution list of all parties that have been copied of the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Attachment



Deve Garaci  
Manager - Network Rationalization

Attachment 14

800 Water Street - J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 389-1086  
FAX: (904) 389-1111  
E-Mail: Deve\_Garaci@CSX.com

March 5, 2007

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
Attn: Mr. Ken Westlake (B19J)  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Westlake:

Please be advised that CSX Transportation, Inc. is considering abandonment of a portion of its rail line from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois, as depicted on the attached map.

This action requires Surface Transportation Board approval and Federal Regulations 49 C.F.R. 1105.7 (9) (i) and (iii) require that CSXT develop a response to the following statements:

(i) "Based on consultation with State Water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies."

(iii) State whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act 33 U.S.C. 1342 are required for the proposed action."

There are no refueling or maintenance areas within the project area. The removal of CSXT's rail material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. CSXT does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbeds and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way, nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. During track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any watercourses.

Based upon the above described actions, CSXT would appreciate receiving your concurrence with its position that the proposed project is consistent with applicable Federal, State and local water quality standards, and that no permits under Section 402 are required at this time.

As further information, CSXT will provide a preliminary environmental report in the coming weeks which will outline the scope of the proposed salvage activity (as stated above) and include any comments received from your office.

Further enclosed, please find a distribution list of all parties that have been copied of the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Attachment

**EXHIBIT E**  
**HISTORIC REPORT**


**[See attached]**



**HISTORIC REPORT  
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(c), the undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the Historic Report in Docket No AB-55 (Sub-No 678X) was mailed via first class mail on March 23, 2007, to the following person:

Mr William L Wheeler, SHPO  
Associate Director  
Illinois Historic and Preservation Agency  
1 Old State Capital Plaza  
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512

  
Steven C Armbrust  
May 2, 2007

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## HISTORIC REPORT

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**CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.  
(Flora North Branch, Clay County, Illinois)  
DOCKET AB-55 (SUB-NO. 678X)**

**1105.7(e)(1)**

**PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES.** Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.

CSXT proposes to abandon approximately 0.86 mile of its rail line between from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to the end of track at Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, known as the Flora North Branch, Clay County, Illinois.

The above referenced 0.86-mile line has not generated any originating or terminating traffic in over two years.

Abandonment of this line will result in the removal of the rail, cross-ties, and possibly the upper layer of ballast. CSXT does not intend to disturb any sub grade or sub grade structures. Finally, the operations and maintenance of this line will cease.

The only alternative would be not to abandon and to pass the opportunity costs of retaining the line to all other CSXT customers. This would not be a prudent utilization of carrier resources.

Two maps, which delineate the proposed project, are attached. (See Attachments 1 and 2)

**1105.8(d)**

- (1) A U.S.G.S. topographic map (or an alternate map drawn to scale and sufficiently detailed to show buildings and other structures in the vicinity of the proposed action) showing the location of the proposed action, and the locations and approximate dimensions of railroad structures that are 50 years old or older and are part of the proposed action.

Attached is a copy of the Flora topographic map prepared by the U. S. Department of Interior Geological Survey. The line to be abandoned has been identified by a heavy black diagonal line. (See Attachment 3)

There are no CSXT-owned structures that are 50 years old or older that may be eligible for listing in the National Register that are part of the proposed action.

- (2) A written description of the right of way (including approximate widths, to the extent known), and the topography and urban and/or rural characteristic of the surrounding area:

The right of way varies between 20 and 50 feet from the centerline of track. The line runs generally north and east through a semi commercial and residential portion of the center of Flora.

- (3) Good quality photographs (actual photographic prints, not photocopies) of railroad structures on the property that are 50 years old or older and of the immediately surrounding area:

There are no structures that are over 50 years old on this line segment.

- (4) The date(s) of construction of the structure(s), and the date(s) and extent of any major alterations, to the extent such information is known:

Not applicable.

- (5) A brief narrative history of carrier operations in the area, and an explanation of what, if any, changes are contemplated as a result of the proposed action:

The land for this line segment was acquired by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company (B&O) between 1869 and 1874 for the purpose of constructing a rail line. The B&O was incorporated February 28, 1827 under a special law of Maryland for the purpose of "the construction and repair of a railroad from the city of Baltimore to some suitable point on the Ohio River with as many sets of tracks" as might be deemed necessary. The General Assembly of Virginia, by act of March 8, 1827 confirmed the act of Maryland and granted the new company the same rights and privileges as are granted to them within the territory of Maryland.

On February 26, 1973, the Chessie System Inc. was formed, and Chessie System Railroads was adopted as the new corporate identity for the C&O, B&O, and WM railroads. On November 1, 1980, Seaboard Coast Line Industries, Inc. and Chessie System Inc. merged and became CSX Corporation. On April 30, 1987, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company was merged into the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company. The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company was merged into CSX Transportation on September 2, 1987.

As a result of the proposed action, CSXT operation of the line will cease. There is an opportunity through the regulatory process for other carriers to acquire the line for continued operations.

- (6) A brief summary of documents in the carrier's possession, such as engineering drawings, that might be useful in documenting a structure that is found to be historic:

Not applicable.

- (7) An opinion (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) as to whether the site and/or structures meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (36 C.F.R. 60.4), and whether there is a likelihood of archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area, and the basis for these opinions (including any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office, local historical societies or universities):

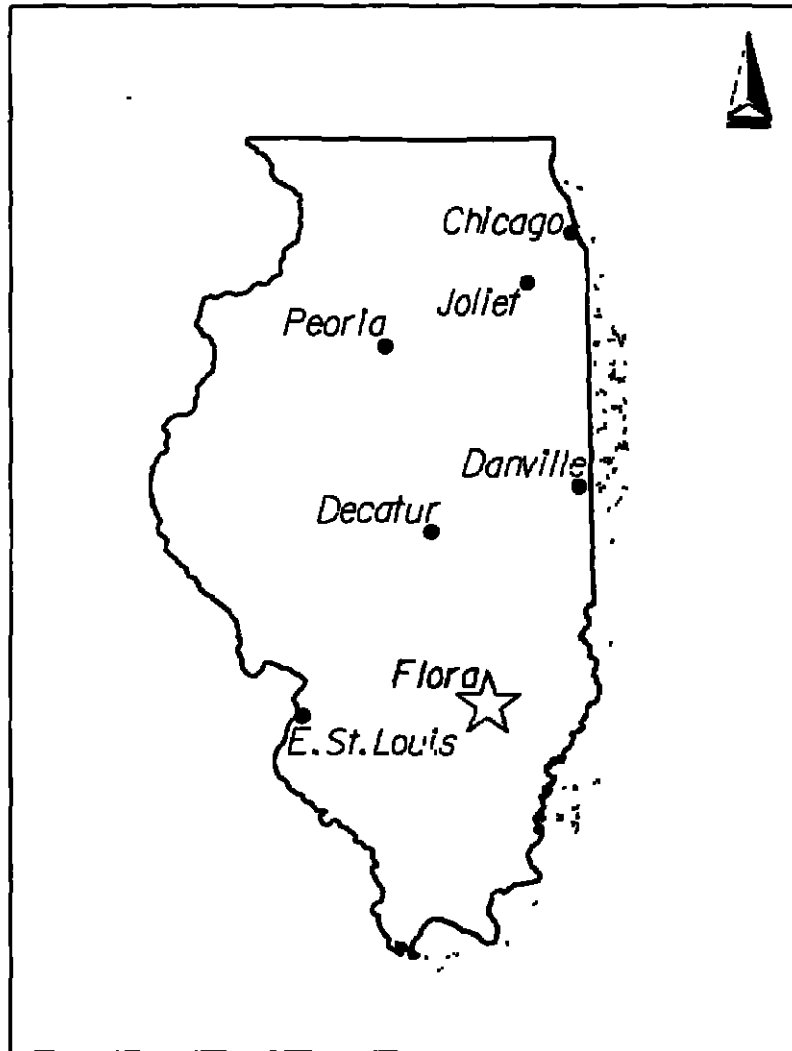
A review of our records indicates there are no CSXT-owned structures over 50 years old on this line segment that are may be eligible for listing in the National Register.

CSXT does not know of any archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area.

- (8) A description (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) of any known prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, environmental conditions (naturally occurring or man-made) that might affect the archeological recovery of resources (such as swampy conditions or the presence of toxic wastes), and the surrounding terrain.

The line was disturbed during construction by cuts and fill and any archeological resources that may have been located in the proposed project area would have been affected at that time versus during the proposed salvage operations associated with rail removal. Our records do not indicate that any swampy conditions exist, or that any hazardous material spills have occurred within the project area.



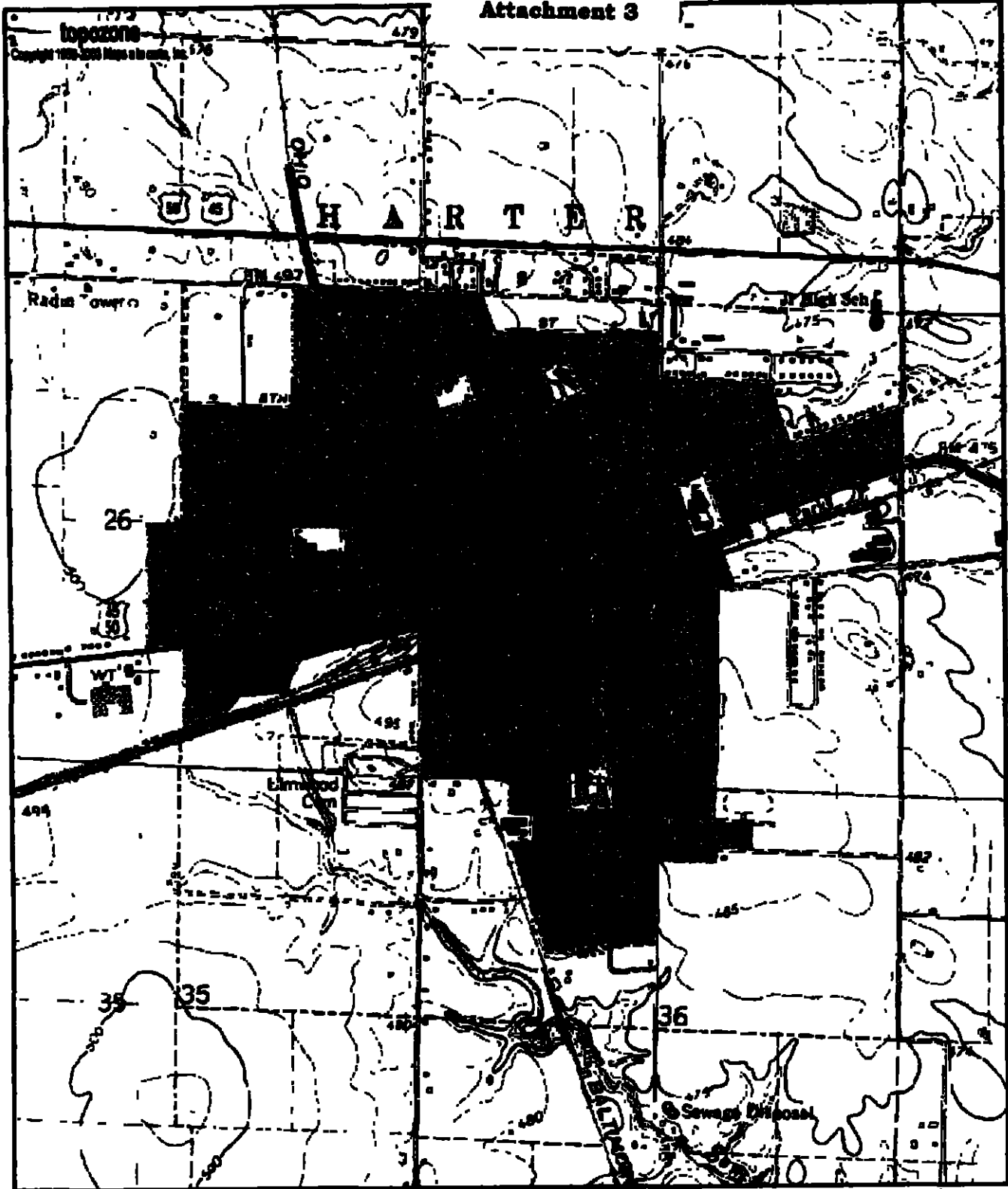


### AREA MAP

- Proposed Abandonment -  
North Flora Branch  
BXO 74.14 - BXO 75.0  
0.86 Miles +/-  
Clay County, Illinois

NORTHERN REGION - LOUISVILLE DIVISION - ILLINOIS SUBDIVISION - NORTH FLORA BRANCH

# Attachment 3



0 0.3 0.5 0.9 1.2 1.5 km  
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 mi

UTM 16 370759E 4280873N (NAD27)  
Flora, USGS Flora (IL) Quadrangle  
Projection is UTM Zone 16 NAD83 Datum

M=-1.74  
G=-0.928





Dave Geraci  
Project Manager -- Network Rationalization

500 Water Street -- J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Tel (904) 359-1088  
Fax (904) 359-1111  
E-Mail: Dave\_Geraci@CSX.com

March 23, 2007

Mr. William L. Wheeler, SHPO  
Associate Director  
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
1 Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701-1512

RE: CSX Transportation, Inc.  
Proposed Line Abandonment  
Clay County, Illinois  
Docket AB-55 (Sub-No. 678X)

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

Please be advised that on May 4, 2007, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("Board") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 0.86 mile of railroad from Railroad Milepost BXO 74.14 to Railroad Milepost BXO 75.0, a distance of 0.86 mile known as the Flora North Branch, City of Flora, Clay County, Illinois, as shown in the attached historic report.

In connection with rail lines that are to become the subject of applications for authority to abandon, Federal Regulations at 49 CFR 1105.8(d), require that a Historic Report be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer prior to filing with the Surface Transportation Board.

In accordance with those Regulations, I am attaching a Historic Report covering the above proposed abandonment. I would appreciate receiving a letter confirming that this project will have no impact upon cultural resources from your office. If you have questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Attachments

Copy:

Surface Transportation Board -- SEA, 395 East Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423  
Mr. Steven Armbrust, Counsel, CSXT, 500 Water St.-J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202



**Illinois Historic  
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512 • Teletypewriter Only (217) 524-7128

Fax (217) 782-8161  
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Clay County

[www.illinois-history.gov](http://www.illinois-history.gov)

Flora

Railway Abandonment

Milepost 74.14 to Milepost 75.0

STB-Docket AB-55 (Sub-No. 678X)

IHPA Log #007032907

April 18, 2007

Dave Geraci

CSX Transportation

500 Water St. - J200

Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mr. Geraci:

We have reviewed the documentation submitted for the referenced project(s) in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4. Based upon the information provided, no historic properties are affected. We, therefore, have no objection to the undertaking proceeding as planned.

Please retain this letter in your files as evidence of compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This clearance remains in effect for two years from date of issuance. It does not pertain to any discovery during construction, nor is it a clearance for purposes of the Illinois Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440).

If you have any further questions, please contact me at 217/785-5027.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Haaker

Deputy State Historic

Preservation Officer